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lems in literary history—such as, for example, the transmission of the Matter of Britain (p. 328), or the relation of Geoffrey of Monmouth to the Arthurian romances (p. 323)—is meagre, or possibly misleading. His bibliographical notes, finally, do not always display an extensive acquaintance with the technical literature of his subject, and some of his references (general citations of the “Book of the Dun Cow” or the “Red Book of Hergest”) are of little value. These various defects occasionally impair the value of Mr. Wentz’s arguments; but, on the whole, they do not destroy the main value of the book, which is competently, and even ably, written. And in view of the fact that the author worked with very little knowledge of the Celtic languages, but was dependent on translations and interpreters, the volume contains surprisingly few errors of fact.

F. N. ROBINSON.

Ἀρχαί: Storia della Repubblica Ateniese, dalle Origini alla Età di Pericle. Di GAETANO DE SANCTIS. Seconda Edizione riveduta ed accresciuta. (Torino, Roma, Milano: Fratelli Bocca. 1912. Pp. xii, 508.)

IN its first edition this book ended with Clisthenes. Now that two new chapters have been added, one entitled Themistocles and Athenian Imperialism and the other Pericles and the Victory of the People, it reaches almost to the outbreak of the Peloponnesian War. The earlier chapters have been carefully revised, the European and American literature of the last fourteen years being taken into account. The author does not believe that any one people has a monopoly of science. The press-work of the new book is better than that of the old. Many Greek names and quotations have been replaced by their Italian equivalents, detailed discussions have been transferred to appendixes and still further changes have been made in the interest of the general reader. Beyond question the work has been much improved.

The *Ἀρχαί* contains a triad of elements constantly recurring: a statement in simplest terms of the ancient report; a detailed and incisive criticism of it—the views of the moderns being dealt with at the same time; and an historical interpretation which is catholic in scope and guided by matured convictions. There is no questioning the author’s knowledge or his professional competency. He has given us an account of the growth of Athenian institutions which is unique in historical literature. A similar orientation as to sources and bibliography would be useful in English.

The general attitude of De Sanctis may be gauged by a few of his conclusions. The close of the Mycenaean period came in the course of the ninth century B. C. The *thesmothetae* were created either along with the archon or a little later and before the polemarch. They were originally judges, perhaps circuit judges. The first Athenian council (apart from that of the Areopagus) was created by Clisthenes. The council

of four hundred attributed to Solon never existed. The *naucraries* were established by Pisistratus. The *diacrii* were not the party of the peasants nor the *paralii* that of the industrial and commercial elements: "ambedue le fazioni popolari erano composte in massima di possidenti". The attempt of Cylon to make himself tyrant falls not in *ca.* 612 B. C., nor yet before Draco in *ca.* 624 B. C. (as the late Professor John Henry Wright maintained before the lost Aristotle was found, and as is now current orthodoxy). Dated properly, according to De Sanctis, it belongs between the first and second tyrannies of Pisistratus in *ca.* 550 B. C. The second expulsion of Pisistratus is, of course, legendary. Naturally the first ejection of the Alcmaeonidae occurred immediately after the failure of Cylon's attempt. The *stratēgi* were first created by Pisistratus, who however had nothing whatever to do with the establishment of the "deme judges". Election by lot was first used in Athens in Cleisthenes's time. Originally devised to draft the citizens in batches of five hundred into the new council, it was extended to all the magistracies between 508 and 487/6 B. C. Ostracism was not first applied but first established in 488/7 B. C. "Son certamente fallaci gli aneddoti sugli scaltrimenti con cui Temistocle avrebbe indotto gli Spartani a tollerare che Atene si circondasse di mura."

De Sanctis is a pupil of Beloch. That means he learned his trade from a ruthless critic of the ancient tradition. In this school the canon is not only held but applied that no reliable account of anything Athenian prior to Pisistratus (apart from that based on the laws and poems of Solon) was extant in the fifth and fourth century B. C. Inferences of the classical authors have less value than those of the modern critical historians. De Sanctis appears everywhere as counsel for the plaintiff in the trial of the tradition. It seems to the reviewer that the defendant does not always get a fair hearing, and that not infrequently a verdict of guilty is secured where a Scotch verdict is alone warranted.

WILLIAM SCOTT FERGUSON.

BOOKS OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

Jean II. Comnène (1118-1143) et Manuel I. Comnène (1143-1180). Par FERDINAND CHALANDON, Archiviste Paléographe, Ancien Membre de l'École Française de Rome. [Les Comnène; Études sur l'Empire Byzantin au XI^e et au XII^e Siècles.] (Paris: Alphonse Picard et Fils. 1912. Pp. lxxiii, 709.)

CHALANDON is already favorably known by his *Essai sur le Règne d'Alexis I^{er} Comnène*, published in 1900, and by his *Histoire de la Domination Normande en Italie et en Sicile*, published in 1907. The present volume is the second in the series on *Les Comnène*, of which his *Alexis* was the first. It is good news that after finishing this series by a third volume extending to 1204, Chalandon proposes to write, "sous une forme moins aride", a history of the Byzantine civilization in the